



NEWSLINE *July 2025*

A Publication of the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce supports our members and our region as a partner for business, workforce, and tourism development.

JUNE WAS A MONTH FOR CELEBRATING OUR REGION'S STUDENTS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AND NEW AND EXPANDING BUSINESSES



Above: The Chamber's Scholarship Committee and staff poses with some of this year's scholarship winners at FMCC's Clock Tower. From left, Geoff Peck, Chair of the Board of Directors; Scholarship Committee Chair Jack Scott; Scholarship Committee member Christie Davis; scholarship winner Ashley Glode (Mayfield), Chamber's MaryBeth Shults; Daryl Baldwin scholarship winner Preston Ellis (Gloversville); scholarship winner Kaylee Klymkow (Mayfield); Gary and Susan Furman who funded the Baldwin scholarship; Scholarship Committee member Sheriff Rich Giardino, and Scholarship Committee member David Jankowski. Above right: Top Athletes Molly Russom (Broadalbin-Perth) and Caelan Porter (Gloversville) pose in front of the Johnstown-Gloversville Holiday Inn's marquee at the June 4 Sports Award Banquet. See more photos on page 14.

Above: The closing reception for Pawtraits, A collection of fine art pet portraits, was a great collaboration for the Chamber, the Fulton County Regional SPCA, and the Gloversville Enlarged School District. These shelter dog portraits were created by Gloversville district student artists and were for sale to benefit the SPCA.



Left: There was a great ribbon-cutting event at Grand Indian Kitchen, 4822 State Highway 30 in Amsterdam. They offer a variety of great Indian food for dining in or for take out and offer catering services. Find out more on their website at gikamsterdam.com



Above: In early June, Reets Boatworks had a ribbon-cutting to celebrate becoming part of The Freedom Boat Club on the Great Sacandaga Lake. Reets Boatworks and Reets Marina build, service, rent and sell boats of all kinds, have marina rental space and sell docks, they now offer membership in the Freedom Boat Club, where members reserve a boat online or by phone, and they make sure its fueled up and ready to go when you arrive. Freedom Boat Club is the world's largest boat club, offering zero-maintenance boating at over 400 locations worldwide. Learn more at <https://reetsboatworks.com/freedom-boat-club/>



Message from the Executive Director

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THE FULTON MONTGOMERY CHAMBER IS A MEMBER:

- ◆ [Business Council of New York State](#)
- ◆ [Center For Economic Growth—Capital Region](#)
- ◆ [Chamber Alliance of New York State](#)
- ◆ [Fulton County Center for Regional Growth](#)
- ◆ [Fulton County Farm Bureau](#)
- ◆ [Montgomery County Farm Bureau](#)
- ◆ [New York State Farm Bureau](#)

Dear Chamber Members,

As the warm weather returns and our region comes alive with visitors and activity, I want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate a vital part of our local economy—our seasonal businesses.

From farm stands and ice cream shops to marinas, campgrounds, and tourism-driven attractions, these businesses play an essential role in shaping the character and vitality of our communities. They not only provide jobs and economic activity, but they also enhance the experience of residents and visitors alike, showcasing the best our area has to offer.

Seasonal businesses often face unique challenges—short windows of operation, unpredictable weather, and workforce constraints, to name a few. Yet year after year, these businesses open their doors with energy, creativity, and an unwavering commitment to service. They embody the entrepreneurial spirit and community pride that make our region special.

At the Chamber, we're proud to support these businesses with marketing, networking, and advocacy efforts. Whether it's through help with tourism promotion, community events, or connecting business owners with valuable resources, we're here to help ensure their continued success.

As you enjoy all the seasonal sights, sounds, and tastes of our region this summer, I encourage you to shop local, dine local, and support the seasonal entrepreneurs, and those who are open all year-round, who work so hard to make our community vibrant.

Thank you for being part of our Chamber family—and thank you to all of our businesses for all you do.

Regards,
MaryBeth

Welcome New Members

June 2025

TIMELINE DIESEL, LLC

310 Bleecker Street, Gloversville

(518) 237-7760 | [Facebook](#)

Timeline Diesel, a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business (SDVOB) certified in NY State, specializes in the remanufacturing of mechanical diesel fuel injection components no longer supported by most contemporary facilities. Specifically, they test and overhaul Diesel-Injector pumps injectors. Current local supplier of electronic diesel component exchange and installation kits. They are committed to providing solutions for all diesel systems with a focus on Agriculture, Industrial, and Performance.



CHAMBER 101 WEBINAR SERIES— BUSINESS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP!

FRIDAY, JULY 25, 9am

We're continuing our Chamber 101 Webinar Series and this time, we're focusing on the Business Education Partnership (BEP)!

Learn about the BEP, the programs we support, and how you and your business and employees can get involved in shaping our region's students and future workforce.

RSVP: <https://business.fultonmontgomeryny.org/events/details/chamber-101-webinar-series-business-education-partnership-45908>



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What a great ribbon-cutting event in front of the Chamber for **Leslie Farrell Travel Agency** on Friday, June 27! Travel Agents have extensive knowledge about various destinations, travel trends and insider tips that can enhance your travel experience. Anywhere you want to go, Leslie can get you there. She saves you time and stress by planning your entire trip, to your specific needs. She offers support and assistance before, during and after your trip. She helps you navigate any unforeseen challenges and offers you peace of mind knowing you have a dedicated professional by your side. See all Leslie can offer you on her Travel Page on [Facebook](#) or on [Instagram](#)



MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

June 2025

Thank you for your continued support!



41+ YEARS

Canada Lake Store & Marine—48
Palmer Pharmacy—43
Joyce Royal Real Estate—42
Jankowski Agency—42

31 – 40 YEARS

Rooney Sign Company—40
Dunham's Spring Shop—40
Main Motorcar Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram—39
Correll Contracting Corporation—38
Patti's Greenhouses, LLC—38
Kinowski Agency Inc./Johnstown office—34
Benjamin Moore & Co., Inc.—33
Town of Johnstown—31

21 – 30 YEARS

Amsterdam Pathology Associates—26
The Flower Barn Gift Shop—21
Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge 1185—21

11 – 20 YEARS

Bosco's Family Restaurant, Inc.—19
ADK Realty—19
Steet Toyota Johnstown-Gloversville—18
Curtin-Hebert Machines—16
McMurray's—13
Route 30 Wine & Liquor Depot—13
First National Bank of Scotia—11

1 – 10 YEARS

Palatine Nursing Home & Rehabilitation Center—10
The Century Club of Amsterdam—10
Gloversville Housing Authority—9
Schenectady Community Action Program, Inc.—9
MVP Health Care—8
MCJ Construction—7
New York Lunch—6
Hummel's Office Plus—6
Brittany's Diner & Grocery Store—6
Out of the Blue Berry Farm—4
Higher Ground Distilling Company—4
Fulton County YMCA—2
On the Mark Accounting, Inc.—2
Pine Lake Lodge—1
Schwalbacher Brewing LLC—1
Helio Health—1
Giddy Grow Shop—1

THE CHAMBER IS LOOKING FOR A COMMUNITY OUTREACH & MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

The Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce is seeking an energetic, people-focused Community Outreach & Membership Director to grow and engage our business community.

In this role, you'll build relationships with local businesses, promote Chamber events and programs, and help create a strong, connected business environment. You'll also be a key player in member recruitment, retention, sponsorship outreach, and event support.

For a full job description, please visit [this link](#).



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CAROGA HISTORICAL MUSEUM AUGUST EVENTS

On July 31, from 7 pm to 9 pm, the museum kicks off the Kane Mountain Fire Tower Centennial with a gallery opening reception with refreshments for the exhibit *"100 Years on Top : The Kane Mountain Fire Tower"*. The exhibit has been curated by Allen Farber and Dick Loomis and features the photographs of Debi Tebano. Local dignitaries will be on hand to commemorate the occasion. The exhibit runs from July 31 through August 31.

As part of the Kane Mountain Fire Tower centennial celebration, the museum features a guest speaker on August 14th at 7:00 pm. Mary Podskoch will present "Adirondack Fire Towers." Marty is an award-winning author and historian having published several books on a variety of Adirondack subjects. This event is scheduled to take place in the Sherman's Park dance hall. Refreshments will be available.

The centennial celebration closes on August 17th with a Caroga Lake Music Festival concert and ice cream social from 3-5:00 pm. There will be a free will offering to support the music festival in its final concert of the resident artists' season. Sundaes will be available 15 minutes before and during the concert. Attendees are asked to bring their own seating for the event.

For further information on museum events and workshops and information about other community events associated with the Kane Mountain Fire Tower centennial, please visit the museum's website at www.carogamuseum.org and look under the History Tab for Kane Mountain fire tower. The Caroga Historical Museum will be open Thursdays through Sundays from 1-4:00 pm through August 31.



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LEADING GASTROENTEROLOGIST DR. GARTH GARRAMONE JOINS GROWING TEAM AT ST. MARY'S HEALTHCARE

Dr. Garth Garramone, a leading gastroenterologist, has joined [St. Mary's Healthcare](http://St.Mary'sHealthcare) as medical director of gastroenterology.

Dr. Garramone has over 20 years of experience in private practice and in overseeing hospital gastroenterology programs in Central New York and eastern North Carolina. He is the latest of more than 30 providers to join St. Mary's in the past 18 months as part of the local independent hospital's strategic investments in much-needed services.

"Dr. Garramone will be instrumental in re-energizing and expanding our gastroenterology services at a time of increasing demand for GI care and fierce competition for GI specialists," said Jeff Methven, St. Mary's President and CEO.

Methven attributes St. Mary's recruiting success, in part, to the fulfillment that often comes with working at a smaller, community hospital—and to St. Mary's emphasis on a positive, supportive work culture. The hospital recently became the first acute care provider in the Capital Region to be named a [Top Workplace](http://TopWorkplace).

For Dr. Garramone, St. Mary's location in Upstate New York—a region that he and his family love—also played a role. He attended college at what was then the Utica campus of Syracuse University. After completing his medical education, Dr. Garramone returned to the area as a partner with Digestive Disease Medicine of Central New York and the medical director of Mohawk Valley Endoscopy. More recently, he served as medical director of gastroenterology at CarolinaEast Health System in North Carolina. Dr. Garramone earned a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Maine. He went on to complete a residency in internal medicine at UMass Chan Medical School in Worcester, Massachusetts, and a fellowship in gastroenterology at Nassau University Medical Center, which is affiliated with Stony Brook Medical School on Long Island.

Dr. Garramone is board certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and a member of the American College of Gastroenterology, American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and American Gastroenterology Association.

His office is located in the St. Mary's Medical Office Building on the Guy Park Avenue Campus, and he is accepting new patients. For an appointment, call (518)843-1240.



FOCUS FINANCE & ACCOUNTING: Empowering Businesses with Clarity, Confidence, and Growth

For small business owners, growth is a thrilling yet complicated journey. Financial confusion, bookkeeping headaches, and compliance obstacles can quickly overshadow the excitement. That's where Focus Finance & Accounting, LLC steps in — not just as a vendor, but as a strategic partner dedicated to clarity, confidence, and sustainable success.

Based in Johnstown but with clients across the Capital District, Focus Finance & Accounting offers a full spectrum of outsourced financial services tailored to meet the evolving needs of businesses at any stage of their journey. From basic bookkeeping to advanced CFO-level consulting, founder Nicole Dench and her experienced team are redefining what it means to support small business financial health.

"Focus isn't just another added expense," says Dench. "We are an investment in your business's efficiency and growth potential."

Strategic Insight Without the Overhead

Focus Finance & Accounting specializes in Fractional CFO services, allowing business owners to access executive-level financial leadership without the cost and commitment of hiring in-house. For many small enterprises, this hybrid approach is not only cost-effective — it's transformative.

Focus delivers this expertise through three distinct levels of support—CFO Consulting, Analyst/Controller, and Staff Accountant. Following a detailed onboarding call—where they learn your goals, systems, and pain points—a fixed-price package is typically assembled that aligns the appropriate service level(s) with the client's needs and budget. This package-driven approach delivers total cost certainty: no surprise invoices, no hourly overages, and—because the service levels can be combined—no gaps in coverage.

CFO Consulting Level

At the strategic level, Focus offers deep-dive financial consulting, KPI dashboard development, grant writing, and executive presentations to boards and finance committees. The goal? To build systems and strategies that fuel informed decision-making and long-term scalability.

Analyst/Controller Level

For operational oversight, Focus provides budget forecasting, special project analysis, system integration, asset management, and data consolidation — all designed to enhance visibility and control over financial performance.



Nicole Dench,
Founder & CEO

Staff Accountant Level

Day-to-day financial operations are the backbone of any business. Focus supports this critical layer with services like monthly bookkeeping, sales tax preparation, A/R and A/P management, and prior year financial cleanup. The firm even supports grant compliance and internal or outsourced payroll management.

A Purpose-Driven Mission

Focus is more than its service offerings. Its mission is to empower clients to attain financial clarity and drive sustainable growth through data-driven insights and strategic support. The vision? A future where business owners pursue growth with confidence — each fulfilling their own unique mission and purpose.

This mission is deeply rooted in Dench's own professional background. Dench earned her Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Business Management from the University of Auckland. Before launching Focus, she served as Senior Financial Analyst at The Arc Lexington, a \$130 million not-for-profit that supports over 1,000 people with developmental disabilities across Fulton, Albany and Schoharie Counties and employs 1400 people in the three counties.

Today, she leads a dedicated team of seven, each committed to delivering high-touch, personalized service. Whether a business is a startup navigating its first year or an established organization preparing for expansion, Focus offers free consultations to understand the unique challenges and opportunities ahead.

Value Beyond the Numbers

In addition to its core services, Focus offers an in-house CPA tax filing and strategy package — a flat-fee add-on designed to further streamline operations and eliminate the stress of hourly billing. This holistic approach allows clients to trust that their financial foundation is not only solid but optimized for growth. "Our goal is to take the financial guesswork out of the equation so business owners can do what they do best — build their business," Dench says.

In an increasingly complex business landscape, Focus Finance & Accounting is proving that clarity and confidence aren't luxuries — they're essential tools for success. With personalized service, expert guidance, and a passion for growth, Focus is helping local businesses transform financial headaches into strategic opportunity.

Learn more at www.focusfinanceandaccounting.com or reach out to nicoledench@focusfinanceandaccounting.com to schedule your free consultation.



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MOHAWK VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT LEADS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE BROADBAND ACCESS IN OTSEGO COUNTY

As part of a county-wide initiative to improve broadband access and digital equity, Otsego County is launching a public survey to better understand local internet availability, affordability, and service quality. The effort is being led in partnership with the Vernonburg Group and Mohawk Valley Economic Development District through a USDA-funded Broadband Technical Assistance project.

The community broadband survey is open to all residents, businesses, institutions, and organizations across Otsego County. Responses will inform the County's broadband planning efforts and guide infrastructure investments to expand reliable, high-speed internet service to underserved and unserved areas.

"Broadband is a necessity for economic growth, education, healthcare, and everyday life. This survey gives our residents a direct voice in identifying where service gaps exist so we can build smart, equitable solutions. We're counting on the community to participate and help us shape a more connected future for Otsego County." – Tammie Harris, Director of Planning, Otsego County Planning & Solid Waste Department
How to Help: Community partners can support this initiative by:

- Posting about the survey on social media
- Sharing the survey link in newsletters or emails
- Distributing paper surveys at events or public locations
- Encouraging constituents to complete and share the survey

The survey can be found at <https://www.otsegocountyny.gov/broadband.php>.

For more information or to request a paper copy of the survey, contact the Otsego County Planning Department at broadband@otsegocountyny.gov or (607) 547-4225.

THE POPULAR HANDS ON HISTORY FOR KIDS SERIES IS BACK AT THE FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Join the Fulton County Historical Society on special Thursday mornings at 10am for Hands on History at the museum! Each week, they will focus on a different theme and use our exhibits and collections to explore these themes in local history. They will finish the morning with a craft activity. This **FREE** program is geared toward kids ages 5-10, but all kiddos welcome!

July 10th: Story Time with the Gloversville Public Library (please note, this program starts at 10:30) Our friends at the Gloversville Public Library are back with their summer story time program! Join GPL staff for a story and activity at the museum.

July 17th, 10am: The Circus is Coming to Town! Can you imagine elephants parading down Main Street in Gloversville? That's just what happened when the circus used to come to town! Explore what you might find at a circus in the 1900s and discover how circuses traveled all over the country and advertised their shows. Then design your own circus poster using inspiration from historic images and items from the museum's collection!

July 24th, 10am: Immigrants' Empire Board Game with Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site Experience the Erie Canal era from the perspective of immigrants! Players will try to successfully complete the journey from NYC to Buffalo; combining water transport, overland routes, and rail lines, while being ever mindful that it takes food, clothing, money, and the good fortune to avoid injury and disease. Everyone's goal: succeed in the Empire State! Presented by our friends at Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site.

July 31st, 10am: WWII Rationing Test Kitchen During World War II, the US government put limits on certain items needed for the war effort, like sugar, coffee, gasoline, tires, and more. Americans got creative with menus and recipes to make the most of their goods. Learn about some of the ways Fulton County residents handled rationing, then we'll make an authentic WWII ration recipe together!

For more information, visit the Fulton County Historical Society online at <https://fultoncountyhistoricalsociety.org/> or email info@fultoncountyhistoricalsociety.org



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AXIS STRENGTH TRAINING: Building Strength, Confidence, and Community

Located on the busy corner of Perry Street and Townsend Avenue in Johnstown, *Axis Strength Training* is far more than just a gym. It's a hub of transformation—physical, mental, and even social—where people of all ages and fitness levels are welcomed, supported, and empowered to achieve goals they once thought were beyond reach. Led by founder and owner Jason Sweet, Axis Strength Training has become a cornerstone in the local fitness community, known for its inclusive approach, expert coaching, and unwavering commitment to each member's success.

Jason launched Axis Strength Training in 2015 while serving as a battalion chief at the Gloversville Fire Department. What began as a part-time venture—helping fellow firefighters and their families with fitness and nutrition—quickly grew into a full-fledged passion. By 2018, he had purchased Axis's permanent home at 402 N. Perry Street.

The facility now boasts multiple training spaces, including a large gym, smaller rooms for private or small group training, and even outdoor areas that take advantage of its proximity to the FJ&G Rail Trail.

But it's the culture inside the gym walls that truly sets Axis apart.

"Most people walk into a gym and feel intimidated, especially if they've never worked out before or haven't been in a long time," said Jason. "At Axis, our mission is to eliminate that fear. We meet people where they are—physically and mentally—and help them build discipline and confidence from the ground up."

That commitment is reflected in the gym's carefully designed onboarding process. Every new member receives one-on-one sessions with a trained coach who introduces them to the movements they'll encounter in class. It's this personal touch—gentle, guided, and judgment-free—that has drawn everyone from 6-year-old kids to people in their 70s through the doors.

The *Axis Youth Program* offers classes for children ages 6-13, teaching fundamentals of strength and movement in a safe, encouraging environment. On the other end of the spectrum, older adults benefit from modifications and individualized coaching that keeps them active, safe, and strong—proving that fitness truly is for every stage of life.

Among the gym's many offerings are strength and conditioning classes, Olympic weightlifting, powerlifting, strongman training, and even a competitive lifting club. Axis also offers personal training and a new mom-friendly class called "*Dumbbells to Diapers*," where new mothers can work out while their young children are safely nearby.

A standout new addition is the *Adaptive Athlete Program*, designed specifically for individuals with physical and mental challenges. Whether recovering from injury or managing long-term limitations, members are welcomed with compassion and customized training strategies.

"We want to remove every barrier someone might have to living a healthy life," Jason said. "There's always a way to move your body and improve your mindset." Mindset, in fact, is just as important as muscle. Jason is a firm believer that physical progress can't happen without mental resilience. That's why Axis coaches—nine in total—emphasize mental strength and habit-building just as much as they do reps and sets.

Axis operates under a set of core values known as the *Axis Athlete Code*:

- Integrity – We do what we say we will do
- Discipline – We do what needs to be done regardless of how we feel
- Courage – We act in spite of fear
- Humility – We are humble and kind

These principles guide not only the coaching staff, but the entire Axis community. "We've created a space where people genuinely support each other," Jason says. "We're a gym full of awesome people—encouraging, friendly, and committed to helping one another grow."

Jason is also passionate about bringing fitness beyond the gym. Through Axis's *Corporate Wellness Program*, he partners with local businesses to promote employee wellness. From leading workplace workshops to offering at-home fitness guidance and nutrition advice, Jason is making the case that healthier employees are more productive, energized, and happy.

"Investing in employee wellness is investing in your business," he said. "I love getting people started on their journey—even if it's just a few stretches or nutrition tips. It can snowball into something really life-changing." Looking to the future, Jason has a bold goal: to get 2,000 people in Fulton and Montgomery Counties involved in Axis programs. That's just 2% of the region's population—but it's a percentage that could change hundreds of lives.

"I give all the credit to our coaches, our staff, and most of all, our members," Jason said. "They've created a culture that's welcoming, strong, and transformative. We're not just a gym—we're a movement."

For more information about Axis Strength Training, visit www.axisstrengthtraining.com or call (518) 571-2952. Whether you're just beginning your fitness journey, returning after a break, or looking to compete at the next level, Axis is ready to help you build the strength to succeed.



Top left: Jason Sweet. Above left: two of the Axis coaches, above right is a strength and conditioning class.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF FULTON AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES PRESENTS WOMAN OF DISTINCTION AND RUBY AWARDS TO SARAH MOORE AND LASHAWN HAWKINS

Sarah Moore is this year's recipient of the Woman of Distinction award from Soroptimist! Her commitment to community service, leadership, and heart for giving back truly embodies the spirit of Soroptimist.

Sarah's journey began during her college years, where she devoted herself to volunteer work and graduated with honors thanks to her exceptional service hours. After returning to her hometown, a place she deeply loves, Sarah was eager to get involved but wasn't quite sure where to start. That all changed when she was introduced to Soroptimist by fellow member, and as Sarah says, "I knew this club was exactly what I had been looking for."

Since joining the club (she's not sure if it's been seven or eight years—time flies when you're making a difference!), Sarah jumped right in with passion and purpose. She chaired the Community Service committee early on, organizing impactful initiatives like town clean-ups, a backpack program for local youth, and holiday support for families through Adopt-a-Family drives. Her dedication didn't stop there—Sarah later joined the board four years ago and has served as club secretary for the past two years, with another two years ahead.

Her tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to lifting others up have not gone unnoticed. Sarah is an inspirational leader, and Soroptimist is proud to honor her as their 2025 Woman of Distinction.

Soroptimist International of Fulton and Montgomery Counties also announced Lashawn Hawkins as the recipient of the 2024 Ruby Award, recognizing her outstanding efforts to improve the lives of women and girls in our community.



Left is Lashawn Hawkins and right is Sarah Moore

ty.

Founder of If I Can Breathe, I Can Speak—now celebrating five years—Lashawn has led initiatives including job fairs, backpack and school supply giveaways, holiday drives, and family-centered programs like Arts in the Park and the Chili Cook-Off. Her dedication spans all ages, from seniors to infants, and she actively involves community members, businesses, and officials in her work.

Last year alone, her organization's Backpack Giveaway supported over 1,000 families with supplies, haircuts, meals, and more.

Lashawn's tireless service and leadership make her a true pillar of the community. We are honored to recognize her as this year's Ruby Award winner—and proud to call her a member and friend.

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PURPLE GLASS HEALING ARTS OFFERS YOGA CLASSES AND MUCH MORE!

Come make your heart and soul happy at a Gentle Yoga Class offered by Happy Heart Yoga & Wellness at Purple Glass Healing Arts, 64 East Fulton Street in Gloversville. This class is offered every Wed & Sat at 9am, beginners welcome. Access the yoga class, and other offerings at Purple Glass Healing Arts, [here](#)

Purple Glass is a Wellness Center for well-being and personal growth. Schedule a tour of Purple Glass Healing Arts which offers spaces for offices, practice, teachings, meeting spaces and more.



SUNNY HUNNY FARMS SCHEDULES GRAND OPENING

Sunny Hunny Farms, 334 Robb Road, Amsterdam has scheduled a Grand Opening on Friday, July 18 from 2-4pm. Sunny Hunny Farms is a small-scale producer of honey, cut flowers, dried flowers, fruits and vegetables. The farm store hosts various classes throughout the year. Growing flowers for beautiful, fresh bouquets is a cornerstone of the business. They offer floral services for weddings, events, as well as u-pick flower opportunities by appointment. Find out more on facebook.com/SunnyHunnyFarms



*Fulton County
Athletes of the
Year Molly
Russom
(Broadalbin-
Perth) and
Caelen Porter
(Gloversville)*

*Sports Award
Banquet speakers
Jeannie Dupree
(left) and emcee
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Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber Golf Classic

Friday, September 12, 2025

HALES MILLS COUNTRY CLUB

146 STEELE ROAD, JOHNSTOWN

SHOTGUN START: 10:00 AM

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT CHAMBER'S MISSION
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REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



We're offering exclusive website ad packages from July 1st to July 31st, including **FREE ad design and expert guidance from our longtime consultant, Jason Moengen.**

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TOURISM

NEWS & UPDATES

SO MUCH going on in our region! Follow links for details or reference the event calendars on 44lakes.com or visitmontgomerycounty.com

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

July 3, 12-10pm, Fort Plain 4TH ON THE 3RD

A July 3 Celebration of American Independence
All Day July 3 at Fort Plain Museum, 12-8
Eisenadler Beer Tent with Music by Tony Semo, 5pm-8pm
Food trucks with pizza, chicken, burgers lemonade and more!
Free admission | Kids Face Painting | Balloon Animals | Free Stewarts Shops Ice Cream | Refreshments | Period Reenactors | Artisan Crafters | Period Music
Shuttle service from Wiles Park 4=8pm
Fireworks after Dark at Wiles Park!

July 3, 6-10pm, Riverlink Park, Amsterdam

INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVAL

Live music with Big Sky Country, food trucks, and the biggest fireworks show in Amsterdam history is all happening tonight! Bring your chair, watch some great country music and so much more!

July 4, 10am-4pm, Old Stone Fort, Schoharie

DECLARING INDEPENDENCE AT THE OLD STONE FORT

Readings of the Declaration of Independence and supporting documents; programs and lectures. Bring your lawn chairs. Outdoor events free; museum admission.

July 4, 12-2pm, Fort Klock, St. Johnsville

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE REDING AND COLONIAL LIFE EXPERIENCE

FULTON COUNTY

July 3, 7-10pm, Vrooman's Hotel, Caroga Lake

ALL FIRED UP Band

July 3, 7:30pm Sherman's Park, Caroga Lake

EDDIE BARBASH (Caroga Arts Music Festival Performance)

July 3, 7:30pm Cowboy Up Event Center, 230 Stever Mills Rd, Broadalbin

LUCKY E RODEO

July 3, 9pm, Pine Lake Park, Caroga Lake

DOUBLE TAP BAND

July 4, 10am, Sherman's Park, Caroga Lake

CARDBOARD BOAT RACE, West Caroga Lake

July 4, 7:30pm, Sherman's Park, Caroga Lake

SYMPHONIC SPARKS, a Fourth of July Concert with Caroga Lake Music Festival Resident Artists, and special guests Eddie Barbash & Alex Moffat

July 4, 12pm Fourth of July Doins', Northville Waterfront Park

July 4, 6:30pm July 4th Roundup: Battle for the Buckle, Lucky E. Rodeo, 230 Stevers Mills Road, Broadalbin

FULTON AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS SCHEDULE

July 2—Riverfront Park, Amsterdam—After the Amsterdam Mohawks Game

July 3—Pine Lake Park | Wiles Park, Fort Plain | Riverlink Park, Amsterdam

July 5—Village of Northville Doins' | Speculator

July 12—Sinclair Point on the Great Sacandaga Lake

Scholarship in Memory of Daryl Baldwin **PRESTON GILLIS – Gloversville High School**

This scholarship is given by Susan and Gary Furman, who generously fund this scholarship in memory of the late Daryl Baldwin, a local businessman and elected official in the Town of Johnstown. To be eligible for this scholarship, the student must have a passion for politics and a love for the arts. The student should be a genuine and kind person and would go out of their way for those in need. Preston Gillis fits these criteria and goes beyond it in many ways.

Preston says in his essay that he has always been a maker and creator. In fact, Preston owns two businesses – his Split Maple Workshop, where he has been creating wooden pieces of art since eighth grade, which fostered his love for mechanical engineering which he will pursue at SUNY Polytechnic this fall. With his other business, as Presto Preston, he performs as a magician at community events and private parties. Another nod to Daryl Baldwin, as Daryl performed magic and was a master balloon artist.

Preston is graduating in the top 10 of his class at Gloversville High School – he is weighted number 8. He is the student-member of the Gloversville Board of Education, President and Treasurer of the GHS Scimitard drama club, President of his Class, served as a mentor at Gloversville High School, guiding students through high school challenges, was Secretary of the Student Government Association, Team Captain of Masterminds NAQT (National Academic Quiz Tournaments), among others. He has a 94.77 cumulative GPA, was named an Academic Titan in all four years of high school, was a winner of the George Eastman Young Leaders Award, a DAR Good Citizen Award, and a Littauer Speaking Award. He is also a member of the Future Business Leaders of America, the National Honor Society, and Key Club. In the community, he is an active member of the Church of the Holy Spirit, the

Colonial Little Theatre, the Glove Theatre, and more.

Teacher Karen Poulin says of Preston, “he is one of the most interesting and unique students I have encountered at Gloversville High School because he sees problems and creates solutions. He uses his many talents to improve the lives of those in the community. ... In the classroom, he is articulate and creative. Students look to him as a role model and problem solver, and he assumes these roles with confidence and ease. ... Above all else, Preston is a genuinely good person.”

JOSIE ARCURI – Broadalbin-Perth High School

Josie Arcuri, ranked 3rd in her class of 154 at Broadalbin-Perth High School, is an aspiring anesthesiologist, not only wanting to provide aid to those in need, but also to make a difference in the science behind administering anesthesia. She possesses a great interest in the chemistry side of medicine, specifically in anesthesia. She will attend the University at Albany to further these studies.

At Broadalbin-Perth, Josie is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, National Social Studies Honor Society, Varsity Club Dance Team, and a member of the Varsity Track and Field team. In the classroom, she is on the Principal’s List, in the National Rural and Small Town Recognition Program, has won an AP Scholar Award, a Scholar Athlete Award, and is in the Top Ten students in her class. She also finds time to work 20 hours a week in retail sales at Marshall’s.

Arlene Baldizon, one of Josie’s teachers, says “Josie has a passion to succeed. Her growth and achievements over the past years will prove her successful in her chosen career path. Her desire to always achieve her goals will make her successful in the future.”

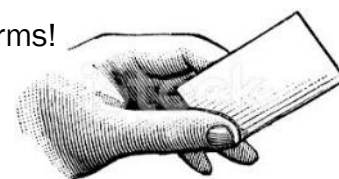
(find additional scholarship winner bios on page 14)



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ASHLEY GLODE – Fonda-Fultonville High School

Ashley Glode from Fonda-Fultonville High School will be pursuing her studies at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse in the Fall. She is following her passion to study in the field of environmental health which is at the intersection of environmental science and public health. Her goal is for a career as an environmental health specialist working in public health to help identify, assess and mitigate environmental risks such as water or air pollution, or chemicals in foods or medications, with the intent on keeping the public safe.

Ashley ranks 6th in her class of 106 with a weighted GPA of 96.094. Kelly DiNatale, a New York State Master Teacher in Science at Fonda-Fultonville, says of this student, “Ashley emerged as an academic leader early on in my science courses, frequently engaging the class in discussion and offering her perspective on the topics at hand. Many of her peers look to her for clarification of concepts and understanding. She has exhibited her competency and determination in a rigorous and challenging curriculum, carrying near perfect averages in Honors Biology and Marine Biology.”

Her list of activities while in High School is impressive – on the Principal’s List for every semester of high school, was the recipient of the Cornell Career-Ex Trip Award, an award in Achievement in Horticulture and Greenhand Degree from the Future Farmers of America, 4-H Awards in horticulture and photography, a George Eastman Young Leaders Award from the University of Rochester and on the Dean’s List at SUNY FM, which she attended as an early admit student. She was a member of her school’s Color Guard, a member of the National Honor Society, International Club, has been a member of the Future Farmers of America since 2018, serving the club as Treasurer, a member of the FFCS Character Club, serving as both President and Vice President, was a student body representative for the student government, is an active member of 4-H since 2014, and is president of the FMCC Sustainable Living Club. She also finds time to be active in community projects, such as beautification efforts for the village of Fonda, raising money for local animal shelters, and working on projects with Liberty ARC and Saratoga Bridges.

KAYLEE KLYMKOW – Mayfield High School

Kaylee Klymkow is this year’s Valedictorian from Mayfield High School. Brynn Hlozansky, Kaylee’s coach in basketball and softball, as well as her teacher in physical education and health, says of this student, “Kaylee is the epitome of a student-athlete. Throughout her high school career, she has made it a point to always make sure the “student” title was her top priority....Although there are several qualities that make Kaylee unique, there is one that truly makes her stand out from the rest – her grit. Her athletic career at Mayfield has been a rollercoaster ride full of success, challenges, tears, smiles, frustration and drive. Through it all, her determination to persevere and overcome remains constant. ... I have been a teacher and coach at Mayfield for nine years. As I reflect back on my time thus far, I can truly say that Kaylee is the one student athlete who I will always remember, miss and encourage my future student-athletes to emulate.”

Kaylee’s activities on the field include all four years as a Varsity soccer, basketball and softball star and has served as a Captain for each sports team. She was a first-team WAC all star twice for softball, named to the first and second teams in the Hudson Division for soccer, and was also named a second team WAC all-star in soccer. She won the MVP Award for softball, a leadership award for basketball and was recognized as a scholar athlete at Mayfield and by the NYSPHAA for Section 2. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council Vice President, Class Secretary and President. Although she is undecided as to her major, with interest in engineering, pharmacy, or education, she will attend SUNY Cortland this fall.

ELIZABETH VOSBURGH – Fonda-Fultonville High School

Elizabeth Vosburgh will graduate from Fonda-Fultonville High School as its Valedictorian, with a weighted GPA of 99.27. Her career goal is to work as a curator at a Natural History Museum. She has been accepted at SUNY Cobleskill into their Honors Program to start this course of study. Her ultimate goal is to earn her Ph.D. in a field related to zoology. Her career aspirations were inspired by childhood visits to the New York State Museum and the American Museum of Natural History where she was astounded by the ability of these institutions to preserve the history of life on earth.

Kelly DiNatale, a New York State Master Science Teacher at Fonda-Fultonville, said of Elizabeth, “Ms. Vosburgh is a gifted scholar and likely the most enthusiastic science student I have worked with in my tenure.” Deidre Palmer, an English Teacher at the school, said of Elizabeth, “Long before I had her as a student, I knew of her reputation for excellence. It is rare to have such a talented student that both teachers and peers freely compliment her abilities in daily conversations... Her love of learning and desire to continue to grow her knowledge and skills make her a standout student for me.”

Elizabeth’s academic accomplishments are many: she has been on the Principal’s List/Honor Roll all semesters of her high school years, achieved Excellence in Honors Biology, Excellence in AP Biology, Excellence in Physics, had the highest average in Geometry, Precalculus and American History, won a Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award. In addition, she was selected for All-County Band in grades 9 through 11.

As a musician, she performed with her school’s Wind Ensemble, Marching Band, Pep Band, and Jazz Band. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Library Club and Drama Club and held an Honors Biology Assistantship.

Each of these students received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Chamber and its members, funded through the Chamber’s annual Golf Classic, this year scheduled for Friday, September 12. Preston Gillis was awarded the Daryl Baldwin scholarship (page 7) funded by Baldwin’s friends, Gary and Sue Furman. These were presented to the students prior to the June Chamber Board of Directors meeting. Please see page 11 for details on how you can participate in this year’s golf event to help support students in next year’s scholarship program.

Nicole Walrath VanAlstyne,
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Natalie May,
Business & Education Partnership Coord.
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NATIONAL GRID AWARDS \$10,000 GRANT TO HFM PTECH TO SUPPORT CAREER READINESS AND STEM EDUCATION

HFM PTECH (Pathways in Technology Early College High School), in partnership with the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce and HFM BOCES, has received a \$10,000 grant from National Grid to enhance its career readiness and STEM-focused initiatives.

The funding will support a range of student-centered programming designed to foster real-world career exploration, professional skills development, and hands-on STEM learning. These include workplace tours, guest speakers, hands-on workshops, project-based challenges, and opportunities to earn certifications in high-demand fields.

"We are so grateful and humbled by the generosity of National Grid," said Celeste Keane, HFM PTECH Principal. "So many of our students have imagined extending their learning through additional shadowing, the acquisition of specialized certifications in IT and related fields and solving real-world problems with their well-developed project-based learning background and experiences. This will support those goals and several others."

National Grid's community giving priorities focus on Education and Skills, Energy and Environment, and Community Investment. The company supports programs that build workforce pipelines in engineering and technology, promote environmental sustainability, and strengthen local communities — all of which align closely with the mission of HFM PTECH. "This grant will help us expand opportunities that connect students with local industries and ensure they are not only career-ready but inspired to innovate and contribute meaningfully to their communities," added Keane.

Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne, Director of Workforce Development at the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce, emphasized the value of this collaboration.

"We are so thankful for our partnership with National Grid. This grant will continue to help PTECH expand real-world opportunities for students, allowing them to gain insight into career paths, build critical employability skills, and connect with professionals who can inspire their future success. These kinds

of experiences are essential for developing a future-ready workforce in our region."

Established in 2014 through the Chamber's Business Education Partnership with HFM BOCES, the PTECH program prepares students for high-demand careers in fields such as agriculture, advanced manufacturing/engineering, business, computer science, and health sciences. The model blends academic instruction with professional mentoring, early college credit, and career exploration, equipping students with the skills and experience needed to thrive in both college and the workforce.

For more information about the Chamber's Business Education Partnership visit <https://www.fultonmontgomeryny.org/business-education-partnership/>.



Left to right:

Erika Haggerty, HFM PTECH Assistant Principal; Celeste Keane, HFM PTECH Principal; Natalie May, Fulton Montgomery Chamber Business & Education Partnership Coordinator; MaryBeth Shults, Chamber Executive Director; Seth Browe, National Grid Regional External Affairs Manager; Jay DeTraglia, HFM BOCES Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services; Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne, Chamber Director of Workforce Development (pictured virtually); Lisa Wemple, National Grid Senior Community Engagement Coordinator; Susanne Collins, National Grid Account Manager.

GET INVOLVED WITH **YOUR** CHAMBER

All events offer *FREE* admission for Chamber members and their employees.

Unless otherwise indicated (highlighted), please RSVP to (518) 725-0641 or email fultonmontgomeryny@gmail.com.

Friday, July 25 9am

CHAMBER 101 WEBINAR SERIES

We're continuing our Chamber 101 Webinar Series and this time, we're focusing on the Business Education Partnership (BEP)!

Learn about the BEP, the programs we support, and how you and your business can get involved in shaping our region's future workforce.

RSVP: <https://business.fultonmontgomeryny.org/events/details/chamber-101-webinar-series-business-education-partnership-45908>

Thursday, July 31

RIBBON CUTTING AT 5S DINER

12 Hancock Street, Ft. Plain

So many new improvements have been made at the 5S Diner which serves breakfast (all day), lunch and dinner—now offering soft serve ice cream, a picnic area and games to enjoy, a new Loyalty Program and soon a new porch for outdoor dining, and a drive-thru window! Help us celebrate all these great improvements with a ribbon cutting event on July 31. RSVP information above.

Friday, August 8, 9:30am

HFM PTECH SUMMER BRIDGE BUSINESS PARTNER MEET & GREET

SUNY Fulton-Montgomery Community College, 2805 State Highway 67, Johnstown

Connect with incoming freshmen through a fun ice breaker, a student panel discussion, and interactive activities to help them practice the professional skills they've learned this summer. You'll also have the chance to answer student-led questions about your career, your role, and your business.

Friday, September 12

CHAMBER GOLF CLASSIC

Hales Mills Country Club, 146 Steele Road, Johnstown

See page 11 for details and sign up for this event that supports the Chamber's 2026 Scholarship program, as well as Chamber events and programs. Join Presenting Sponsor Miracle-Ear and support our region's students!

YOU'RE INVITED!

**HFM PTECH**

**BUSINESS PARTNERS**

SUMMER BRIDGE BUSINESS PARTNER MEET AND GREET!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8TH, 2025 AT 9:40AM

@ SUNY FMCC (SPECIFIC LOCATION TO FOLLOW!)

ENGAGE WITH STUDENTS DURING A FUN AND INTERACTIVE ICE BREAKER ACTIVITY!

A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH OUR INCOMING FRESHMEN STUDENTS!

HELP OUR STUDENTS PRACTICE THEIR PROFESSIONAL SKILLS LEARNED DURING THEIR SUMMER BRIDGE CLASSES!

ANSWER STUDENT LED QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS, YOUR ROLE, YOUR CAREER PATH AND MORE!



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING, SCAN THIS CODE TO SIGN UP!



WITH ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

[Nicole Walrath-VanAlstyne \(518\)774-2274](mailto:nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org)

nicolew@fultonmontgomeryny.org

[Natalie May \(518\)774-0627](mailto:Natalie.May.(518)774-0627)

nataliem@fultonmontgomeryny.org

ATTENTION BUSINESSES IN THE CITY OF GLOVERSVILLE

The [Gloversville Economic Development Corporation](#) has loans available for businesses located in the City at comfortable and competitive rates for a variety of needs and purposes! Interested businesses should call the Chamber or email marybeth@fultonmontgomeryny.org